tion 1970 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1988 and state how many 'Growth Centres' have so far been set up in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The new "Growth Centre" Scheme has been announced only recently and the State Governments have been asked to send their proposals for identification of the Growth Centres.

Schemes to generate employment through Khadi and Village Industries Board

557. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since formulated some new schemes to generate employment through Khadi and Village Industries Board;

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes; and

(c) what is the anticipated increase of new employment and the financial involvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Khadi and Village Industry programmes generate employment basically in the non-farm sector. With the amendment of Khadi & Village Industries Act the scope of Village Industries has been widened. In pursuance thereof KVIC has identified 34 new industries in addition to existing 26 village industries for being taken up during 1988-89. This will further increase employment opportunities in the rural sector.

Besides the ongoing schemes the new schemes are expected to generate additional employment for 10,000 persons with a financial involvement of Rs. 12 crores.

Ashok Paper Mill, Assam

558. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ashok Paper Mill in Assam remains closed for a long period of time inspite of its high-quality paper production;

(b) if so, what are the reasons behind its closure;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Assam requested Hindustan Paper Corporation for taking over management of the Ashok Paper Mill in Assam; and

(d) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction to the request of the Government of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Ashok Paper Mills has two units one at Jogighopa, Assam and the other at Rameshwarnagar, Bihar. The units are lying closed from March, 1983 and October, 1982 respectively, on account of problems relating to finance, management, raw material, power availability, infrastructural constraints etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Central Government have informed the Assam State Government that it is the responsibility of the State Government to reopen and revive the Ashok Paper Mills. The Central Government has offered to provide necessary assistance to the Government of Assam for the reopening of the Ashok Paper Mills, including the technical and managerial expertise of the Hindustan Paper Corporation.

On a referance made by the Board in June, 1987, the Board for Industrial and Financial reconstruction declared Ashok Paper Mills as a Sick Industrial Company in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and has initiated necessary proceedings under the Act.